

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 14 stand rejected and claims 4 and 15-22 stand objected to.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 2, 4 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants believe that claim 2 is cited in error and that claim 3 is intended instead. Applicants have hereby addressed the 112 rejections via claim amendments and respectfully submit these rejections are now moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by Chinese Patent No. CN02118792 to Jinsong. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that claims 1 and 14 as amended herein are in fact novel over Jinsong.

Jinsong discloses in pages 11-12 two processes for conference appointment and conference setup, and in the latter process: (4m) when the conference start time is up, the first primary GK sends admission request signaling to MCU, sends the terminal location information involved in the conference to MCU, and orders MCU to start the conference; (4n) upon receiving the admission request signaling, the MCU sends setup call signaling to the first terminal based on the terminal location information, and continues the follow-up Q.931, H.245, RTP protocol processing to enable the first terminal to join the conference; and in steps (4o)-(4r), the second terminal joins the conference. There is no description whatsoever directed to performing any type of conference control during a conference in Jinsong.

In currently amended claims 1 and 14, the videoconference coordination system coordinates the corresponding conference management systems and also controls the conference by forwarding conference control data. It is well known in the art that the conference control data comprises conference state data and conference control commands, wherein the conference state

data refers to data reported by each conference management system to the corresponding conference coordination system and forwarded by the conference coordination system to other conference management systems during the conference, including start/end of conference, entering/leaving of conference site, or change of chairman token, and the conference control commands comprise prolongation/ending of conference, calling/hanging up/adding/deleting/broadcasting/viewing of conference site, and setting up multi-vision during the videoconference. In other words, the conference control data refers to data that is processed during the conference - and which Jinsong does not mention nor allude to anywhere in his patent. There is thus no motivation in Jinsong nor in the art for a skilled person to attempt to use the GK of Jinsong to control a conference via conference control data.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 14 are in fact patentable over Jinsong and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and pass these claims to issue. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully request him to clearly and specifically point out where Jinsong discloses the above feature in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.104(c)2:

“In rejecting claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the examiner must cite the best references at his or her command. When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by Applicant, **the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable**. The pertinence, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified” (emphasis added).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Jinsong in view of WO 01/35655 to Roni. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1. “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 3 are also allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1 as well as the additional limitations recited by each of these claims.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to claims 4-13 and 15-22. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 14 without prejudice and expressly reserving the right to present these claims in a future divisional or continuation application. Applicants further present new claims 24 and 25 and submit that these claims are patentable over the art on record for the same reasons set forth above with respect to amended claims 1 and 14.

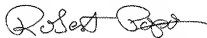
Regarding the prior art made of record by the Examiner but not relied upon, Applicants believe that this art does not render the pending claims unpatentable.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,



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